

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 17 and 21 through 31 are now pending in the application. Claims 18 through 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1 through 4, 9, 10 and 12 through 17 stand rejected. Claims 5 through 8 and 11 stand objected to. Claims 21 and 31 have been added. The amendments and claim additions contained herein do not present new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the claim rejections and objections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ELECTIONS/RESTRICTIONS

The Office Action acknowledges Applicant's election of Claims 1 through 17, with traverse, and now makes the election requirement final.

Applicant maintains that a search of the subject matter in Claims 18 through 20 will not place an undue burden upon the Examiner. However, to expedite prosecution of this application, Applicant now cancels Claims 18 through 20.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 9 – 10, 13, 14 and 16 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakatani (U.S. Patent No. 4,985,663). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17 recite, in part, a plurality of wires having a routing wire portion that is capable of being inspected by an inspection device. Because at least a portion of the routing wire portion is exposed, the routing wire portion

is free of obstructions, thus allowing it to be accessible to contact with a testing device. This feature is not present in the Nakatani reference. The wires 3 of the Nakatani reference are obstructed by the tape carrier 1a (Figure 4). The presence of the tape carrier 1a prevents a testing device, or any other device, from contacting the wires 3.

The Nakatani reference fails to anticipate amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17 because it fails to disclose each and every feature of amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17, and those claims dependent therefrom. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 9 – 10, 13, 14 and 16 – 17. Further, because the Nakatani reference fails to disclose or suggest the desirability of these features of Applicant's invention, the Nakatani reference fails to render obvious amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17, and those claims dependent therefrom.

Claims 1 – 3, 9 – 10, and 13 – 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Onishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,767). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17 recite, in part, a routing wire portion that is capable of being inspected by an inspection device. Because at least a portion of the routing wire portion is exposed, the routing wire portion is free of obstructions, thus allowing it to be accessible to contact with a testing device. The Onishi reference fails to disclose this feature of Applicant's invention. Specifically, the portions of the wires 40 and 42 that the Office Action asserts have different widths are obstructed by the substrate layer 10B (Figures 1 and 6) and further covered by a conductive paste 50 (Figures 1 and 6). Thus, because the Onishi reference fails to disclose each and every feature of Applicant's invention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner

reconsider and withdraw the rejections of amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom. Further, because the Onishi reference fails to disclose or suggest the desirability of this feature of Applicant's invention, the Onishi reference fails to render obvious amended Claims 1, 13, 14, and 17, and those claims dependent therefrom.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakatani (U.S. Patent No. 4,985,663). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 depends upon amended Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 recites, in part, a plurality of wires having a routing wire portion that is capable of being inspected by an inspection device. As discussed above, the Nakatani reference fails to disclose or suggest the desirability of these features of Applicant's invention as the wires 3 of the Nakatani reference are obstructed by tape carrier 1a (Figure 4) to prevent a testing device, or any other device, from contacting wires 3. As Claim 4 includes the features of amended Claim 1, the Nakatani reference also fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 4. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 4 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,469,767). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4 and 12 depend upon amended Claim 1. As discussed above, the Onishi reference fails to disclose or suggest the desirability of the features of amended Claim 1. As Claims 4 and 12 include the features of amended Claim 1, the Onishi

reference fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claims 4 and 12. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that Claims 5 through 8 and 11 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten Claim 5 in independent form as new Claim 27. Thus, Applicant has complied with the Examiner's instructions and new Claim 27 is allowable. New Claims 28 through 31 correspond to original Claims 6, 7, 8, and 11 respectively and include the features of new Claim 27. Because the Examiner has indicated that new Claim 27 is allowable, new Claims 28 through 31 are also allowable because they include the features of new Claim 27.

The Office Action states that Claims 5 through 8 and 11 are allowable because the prior art of record "lacks the plurality of wires hav[ing] a first layer and a second layer, the second layer having a resistance value lower than that of the first layer and the second layer is formed to correspond at least to the second portions of the wires." While Applicant agrees that these features are not present in the prior art, Applicant notes that Claims 5 through 8 and 11 include numerous other patentable features that are not found in the prior art.

NEW CLAIMS

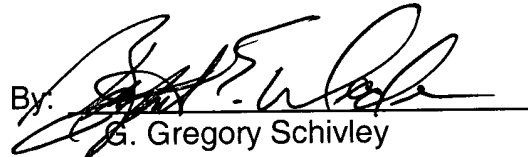
In addition to new Claims 27 through 31 discussed above, Claims 21 through 26 have been added. The features of new Claims 21 through 26 are not disclosed by, or obvious in light of, the prior art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new Claims 21 through 26.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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